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Urban District of Hebden Royd

Annual
REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1945

HEBDEN BRIDGE:

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Urban District of Hebden Royd

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URBAN DISTRICT OF HEBDEN ROYD

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Holme House, Hebden Bridge.
August, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Royd
Urban District Council

Sir, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Urban District of Hebden Royd for the year ending 1945.

In accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46, dated 11th February, 1946, and Circular 49/45, of 19th March, 1945, the report has been curtailed, and is an interim report.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:—

Live Births	Total M F			} Birth-rate per 1000 estimated Resident Population, 15.76
	Legitimate ...	139	73 66	
	Illegitimate ...	6	4 2	

Still Births	Legitimate ...	1	1	0	} Rate per 1000 (live and still) Total Births, 6.84
	Illegitimate ...	0	0	0	

Population 1945, 9,195

	Total	M	F	Death-rate per 1000
Deaths	152	77	75	Population, 16.53

Birth Rate (Eng. & Wales)	16.1	per 1000 population
Still Birth Rate	0.46	„
Death Rate	11.4	„

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

	Births	Total (Live & still) Rate per 1000	Birth
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	.....	0.00
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	0.00	.....	0.00

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

Legitimate	Total 3	Males 0	Females 3
Illegitimate	Total 0	Males 0	Females 0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births:—

Legitimate 21 Illegitimate 0 All Infants 20.

Death Rate Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births:—

England and Wales 46

Deaths from Diphtheria	0
„ Measles (all ages)	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0
„ Cancer (all ages)	23
„ Heart Disease (all ages)	55
„ Influenza	1
„ Suicide	1
„ Road Traffic Accidents	0
„ Pneumonia (all types)	4

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer, who also acts as Public Vaccinator and District M.O. under the Poor Law Act.

The Sanitary Officer is a full-time Officer; and other Public Health Officers, such as Veterinary Surgeons, Public Analysts, etc., come under the control of the West Riding County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

This is principally carried out by three District Nurses, two attached to the Hebden Bridge District Nursing Institution, and one to the Mytholmroyd and District Nursing Institution. These Nurses are qualified both in General and Maternity Nursing. They attend confinements at a small fixed fee. Their work is highly appreciated, and their services are always much in demand.

These District Nursing Institutions are managed very successfully by local Committees and are supported principally by voluntary contributions. The Institutions receive a subsidy from the Ministry of Health towards the cost of running the Maternity Service. They have no connection with the Local Authority. Midwives: The three District Nurses referred to are the only practising midwives in the area.

There was no change in these arrangements during the year.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield. Autogenous vaccines and sera are supplied free of charge to local medical men requiring same.

Diphtheria anti-toxin and immunising serum are supplied to any Medical Practitioner requiring them for use in their practice. Immunisations against diphtheria are carried out at local School Centres or by doctors engaged in private practice, free of charge. The cost of such treatment is met by the County Council Public Health Authorities.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Infectious cases are removed by an Ambulance from the Fever Hospital. Non-infectious and Accident cases are removed by an Ambulance jointly owned by Hebden Royd Urban Council and Hepton Rural Council.

Subscribers to the Hebden Bridge Nursing Institution are entitled to free use of the Ambulance—there is a nominal charge made for non-subscribers. The present Gift Ambulance is, in my opinion, no longer suitable for the work in this area.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are established at both Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. An Afternoon Clinic is held at both centres each Wednesday for mothers and babies, under the supervision of a doctor and nurses. Owing to war conditions the Clinic at Mytholmroyd has a doctor in attendance only every fortnight. An additional Clinic is held in Hebden Bridge on Thursdays at 2-0 p.m.

These Clinics are well attended, showing a considerably increased attendance in recent years. U.V.R. Treatment Clinics are held twice weekly at Hebden Bridge Centre, under the supervision of a Doctor and Health Nurse. Ante-Natal Clinics are held at Hebden Bridge, under the supervision of a Lady Doctor. They are held on the first, second and fourth Friday of each month at 1-0 p.m., and are very well attended. At Mytholmroyd the Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the first Monday of each month at 2 p.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held weekly at both Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge.

The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at the Royal Halifax Infirmary. Other free treatment Clinics are at Burnley and Keighley.

The Clinics referred to are under the control of the West Riding County Council.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council whereby pre-school and school children can be immunised free of charge either at suitable centres or at the schools or by their own medical attendant.

The "Welcome" Diphtheria Prophylactic A.P.T. is used for inoculation, and two injections are given at monthly intervals. The results so far as I can ascertain have been excellent.

. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year 1945 the district was free from any serious epidemic of disease, but there was a marked prevalence of minor sickness with prolonged convalescence showing a general lowering of recuperative powers. Ten cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year—these cases were of a sporadic type occurring throughout the year. Two cases of Diphtheria were notified in November. The first case notified was a scholar attending the Infants' Department of a local school. Nasal and throat swabs were taken of all contacts and scholars attending this department. One carrier was discovered and sent to hospital for treatment. The second case occurred a week later in another department of the same school, so I decided to have nasal and throat swabs taken of all the scholars and teachers attending this school as well as contacts. Another

carrier was discovered and sent to hospital for treatment. No further cases were notified. Both the cases and the carriers had previously been fully immunised against diphtheria. The diphtheritic infection was of a virulent type. The campaign against Diphtheria was carried on during the year by means of local picture shows, Press advertisements, and visits to the homes by the Welfare Visitors, who remind parents of the vital necessity of having their children immunised against diphtheria. Also each child on its first birthday receives a birthday card stressing the importance of immunisation. These cards are sent at the expense of the Local Authority. Measles was prevalent throughout the area from January to April, when 21 cases were notified. Whooping Cough was prevalent during June and July, when 24 cases were notified. There were minor epidemics of mumps and chicken-pox during November and December. I am still of the opinion regarding the fevers, measles and whooping cough that the number of cases notified does not at all cover the cases occurring. Many parents do not realise it is their legal duty to call in the family doctor in any suspected case now that these diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your area, and this failure on their part makes it impossible to check or control epidemics, or make any accurate survey of these diseases.

Scabies still proved troublesome during the year, recurring in several cases; some cases requiring admission to hospital for treatment. Seventy cases notified during the year to the Public Health Department were treated free of charge at the General Hospital, Halifax, Treatment Centre, Out-Patients' Department.

Under the auspices of the Central Council for Health Education photographic displays and cinema shows covering V.D., Diphtheria and Scabies were given on the 6th and 8th November at Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. There was a fairly good attendance at both these shows. Dr. Vincent, from the Central Council, gave lectures on "Personal Hygiene and Sex Education for children" at Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd on November 5th and 7th. These lectures proved very successful. Further propaganda against V.D. was carried on throughout the year by distribution of leaflets and posters.

For years before the war I drew attention in my annual reports to the desirability if not actual necessity of providing Swimming Baths for the combined Urban and

Rural areas. I again urge the importance of setting about the provision of such, in the interests of the health of the inhabitants. At present the young people have to visit adjoining towns for this healthy and invaluable exercise, or worse still, bathe in the canal or the mill dams. Considering the stagnancy and impurity of the water in these, I am of the opinion that they are definitely unhealthy and dangerous, and should not be used for bathing purposes.

There were no cases of Anthrax, Psittacosis, or Undulant Fever.

I do not know of any use of the Shick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever having been made. In my opinion every child immunised against Diphtheria should be Shick tested. No local action was taken in regard to the use of Measles Serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

EVACUATION

During 1945 the number of evacuees gradually decreased from 455 on January 1st to 126 on December 31st. As the danger from the flying bomb and the rocket bomb became less severe, the evacuees began to drift back to London and other cities and towns, and later on organised parties were arranged by the Ministry of Health until all who had accommodation in their home city and wished to go, had returned.

Burnside Hostel and Heath House Hostel were closed down at the end of 1945 after the few remaining children had been transferred to other hostels.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1945.

DISEASE	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	10	9	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	4	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	30	0	0
Measles	24	0	0
Ophthalmia N�enatorum	0	0	0

[illegible]

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 176.—No action taken.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10 .....	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
15 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
25	4	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
35 .....	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...
45	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 ...	...	...	..	..	..	...	...	...
56 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Totals ...	6	0	0	1	0	1	0	0

There was 1 death from Tuberculosis during the year 1945. This case was previously notified to me.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF
TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was deemed necessary to be taken under these Regulations.

Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1945.

NAME OF DISTRICT—HEBDEN ROYD URBAN

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.		Cases removed to Hospital.	
0	Smallpox	0	Smallpox.
10	Scarlet Fever	9	Scarlet Fever
2	Diphtheria, including Mem. Group	2	Diphtheria
0	Typhoid	0	Enteric Fever
0	Paratyphoid	0	Pneumonia
4	Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)		
0	Puerperal Pyrexia		
0	Cerebro-Spinal Fever		
0	Acute Poliomyelitis		
0	Acute Polio-Encephalitis		
0	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica		
0	Dysentery		
0	Ophthalmia Neonatorum		
1	Erysipelas		
6	Respiratory Tuberculosis (new cases only) (3 civilian 3 non-civilian)		
1	Other forms of Tuberculosis (new cases only)		
0	Contracted in this Country		
0	Contracted Abroad		
0	Induced in Institutions†		
x	Chickenpox		
24	Measles (excluding German Measles or Rubella)		
30	Whooping Cough		

Chickenpox.—Was this disease compulsorily notifiable in your district during the year 1945?—No.

If so, please state period If it was not compulsorily notifiable, but was known to be prevalent during 1945, please write a "x" in the appropriate column of the above table.

Respiratory and Other Forms of Tuberculosis.—Under these heading include only the numbers of primary cases; notifications of institutional admissions and discharges should not be included.

† Notified under the proviso to Article 5 of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927.

(Signed) F. J. DOWDALL, Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172

No action found necessary.

This, Sir, Madam and Gentlemen, concludes my report on the health of your district for the year 1945.

I have the honour to remain

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS JOSEPH DOWDALL,

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,
Medical Officer of Health

HEBDEN ROYD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR**Year ending December 31st, 1945**

To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Royd
Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,—

Due to the tragic decease of your late Sanitary Inspector, it falls to my lot to review the work of the Department during 1945.

Nuisance Inspections

The total number of inspections made in 1945 for nuisances was 160. The actual number of nuisances found was 90, and all of these were abated by the end of the year with the exception of 4.

Notices Served

The total number of notices served was: Informal 71, Statutory nil, and of these 67 were complied with.

Routine Visits

Visits re Nuisances, 160; visits re Tents, Vans and Sheds, 4; visits re Offensive Trades, 8; visits to Cowsheds, 132; visits to Bakehouses, 23.

Drainage and Sewerage

There have been no extensions to the drainage scheme during 1945. The outlying districts still require servicing, no less than 429 houses being not connected to the sewers. This fact, plus inadequate water supplies, continues to impede the conversion of pail closets to the water carriage system. In this connection it is of interest to record that there are still 302 pail or tub closets in the Urban District.

Public Cleansing

The total annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse was £2,624, which shows an increase of £398 on the previous year. Disposal continues to be by means of controlled tipping.

Water Supply

There are approximately 889 dwelling-houses in the district which are not on the public water supply. These houses have to rely upon private supplies which in many cases are inadequate and have a high bacterial content. It is to be hoped that the new Water Act will speedily provide an adequate supply of wholesome water. Meanwhile all private supplies are being systematically sampled and submitted to bacteriological examination.

Milk Supply

During the year milk has been sampled under the National Milk Testing Scheme. The structural condition of buildings generally is good, but the interior of the cowsheds in many cases requires overhaul, and in some cases proper dairy accommodation. There are 38 cowsheds registered as such in this area, and it is a matter for regret that only 10 licences are in force for the production of designated milks.

Meat Inspection

The slaughter of animals continues to be carried on at the Halifax Abattoir. There is no indication of any early return to the former practice of slaughtering at private slaughterhouses.

General Sanitary Condition of Schools

Some of the schools still have trough closets, and this is to be deplored.

Housing

The difficulties of the labour and supply position have restricted housing improvements, and many of the houses are worn out, lacking in modern amenities, and not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense.

Salvage

The amount of salvage material sold during the year was approximately 102 tons, and realised £623 10s. 9½d.

Nuisance Inspections

Total number of Inspections made in 1945 for nuisances only: 160 (not including Housing Inspections).

Nuisances found in 1945: 90. Nuisances in hand, end of 1944: 1.

Total needing abatement: 91. Abated during 1945: 87. Outstanding, end of 1945: 4.

Notices served: Informal: 71. Complied with: 67. Notices served: Statutory: 0. Total number of summonses or other legal proceedings: 0.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.:—Tents, Vans and Sheds: No. in district: 2; No. on register: 2; total No. of inspections made: 4. Offensive Trades (both Tripe Boiling establishments): No. in district: 2; No. on register: 2; total No. of inspections made: 8. General conditions: In fair condition. Legal Proceedings: Nil. Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?: No.

Drainage and Sewerage

Particulars of any sewer extensions during 1945: None. Details of any portion of district still requiring—(a) Sewering: Outlying districts still require sewerage; (b) Improvement of defective sewers; Nil. No. of houses not connected to sewers: 429.

Sewage Disposal Works

Particulars of any extensions made during 1945: None.

Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works?: Sewage Works continue to work on percolating filter methods satisfactorily. (Trade effluents taken and treated).

Any complaints from West Riding Rivers Board?: None.

Closet Accommodation

Number of privies with open middens: None.

Number of pail or tub closets: 302.

Number of privies with covered middens: 3.

Number of water closets: 3,417.

Number of waste water closets: 13.

Number of privies reconstructed during 1945: (a) as w.c.'s: Nil; (b) Other: Nil.

Number of closets, other than privies reconstructed during 1945 as w.c.'s: Nil.

Number of additional closets provided for old property in 1945 as (a) w.c.'s: Nil; (b) Other: Nil.

Number of closets constructed in 1945 for new houses: (a) w.c.'s: Nil; (b) Other: Nil.

Total number of closets in district: 3735; percentage of closets on water carriage system: 91.4 per cent.

Any special action being taken by Council to secure conversion of privies, waste water closets and pails to w.c. system. If so, what?: The Council pay a subsidy of £3 for every closet converted to the water carriage system.

Scavenging

Is public scavenging in operation throughout the whole district?: Yes.

How is refuse disposed of?

Tipping: 100 per cent. If tipping is in operation, is it on the controlled system?: Yes. Total annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse £2,624.

Particulars of any extension or improvement in the service during the year?: None.

Water Supply

Source of supply: Halifax Corporation and private supplies

By whom distributed?: The Halifax Corporation Supply is distributed by the Hebden Royd U.D.C.

Number of dwellinghouses on public supply: 2,780.

Number of dwellinghouses not on public supply: 889.

Total number of dwellinghouses in district: 3,669.

Any extension of supply during the year : None.

Has supply been satisfactory?: Yes. (a) In quality: Yes. (b) In quantity: Yes.

Number of examinations made during the year: (a) Chemical: Nil. (b) Bacteriological: 1. Result: Satisfactory.

Have any supplies been restricted or closed, if so, where?: None. There are a number of private supplies in the district which will be sampled during the coming year.

Milk Supply

Number of milk samples taken by officers of your Authority for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938: None.

Any special examination of milk for dirt, e.g., sedimentation test?: None.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk during 1945?: None.

No. of cowkeepers in district; 38. Number registered: 58. Total No. of cowsheds: 64. Total No. of milk cows: 432

Total number of cowsheds inspected during the year: 64.

Total number of cowshed inspections: 132.

Number of wholesale traders registered: 10.

Number of retail milk sellers registered: 50.

Have any retailers been removed from the register?: No

Observations as to structural conditions, cleanliness and methods of production and handling of milk: The milk from producers' premises has been sampled during the year under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. The structural condition of the buildings is good, but the interior of the cowsheds in many cases requires overhaul, and in some cases proper dairy accommodation.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936-1946

Number of licences in force in area for: (a) Production of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk: 1. (b) Production of "Accredited" Milk: 9. (c) In respect of Pasteurising Plants: Nil (d) Number of licences in force for bottling "Tuberculin Tested" or "Accredited" milk, other than at place of production: None.

Meat Inspection

Any public abattoir in district?: No.

Total number of private slaughterhouses: 3, made up of 0 registered and 3 licensed.

Number unsatisfactory either as regards structure, position, or in other respects: None.

Number of times each slaughterhouse inspected: Not in use. Total inspections: 0.

Number of seizures of unsound food: Nil. Total weight: Nil. Number of prosecutions: Nil.

Other Foods

Number of samples (other than milk) taken by officers of Local Authority for examination under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938: None.

Number of bakehouses in district: 23. Total inspections. 23.

Are any bakehouses underground, if so, how many? None.

Schools

Statutory Medical Inspection is carried out by the County Education Authority in most of the districts, but that does not relieve the M.O.H. of his duties in regard to sanitation and the prevention of infectious outbreaks in connection with Schools.

Number of Schools in district: 7.

Number visited by M.O.H.: 5.

Action taken: None.

Schools closed by M.O.H.: None.

General Sanitary Conditions: Some of the Schools still have trough closets

Smoke Abatement

Number of smoke observations each of 30 minutes duration taken during 1945: Nil.

Number of above showing excessive emission of black smoke: Nil.

Number of cautions issued: Nil.

Number of statutory notices issued: Nil.

Number of prosecutions: None.

Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3)

Number of visits paid under above Act during 1945: Nil

Unsatisfactory conditions found: Nil. Remedied: Nil

Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc.

Number in district: 2.

Is this class of dwelling showing signs of increase? No.

Have Council made byelaws under Section 268(4), Public Health Act, 1936? No.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Are there in the district any public swimming baths or pools?: No. Any privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public? No.

Any samples of bath waters examined in 1945, apart from samples submitted to the County Bacteriological Laboratory? If so, please give particulars: No.

Byelaws and Regulations in force in District

Please give list of Byelaws and Regulations in force and date of adoption in each case.

Building Bye Laws: 24th July, 1939.

Pleasure Ground Bye Laws: 24th July, 1939.

Hackney Carriages: 27th June, 1945.

Infectious and Other Diseases

Diseases specially prevalent in 1945: Whooping Cough, May-July; Chicken Pox and Mumps, September-December.

Any disease specially added to notifiable list?: No.

Any influences threatening the health of the district?: No.

Mortuaries

What accommodation: (a) for accidents: 1 at Mytholmroyd and 1 at Hebden Bridge. (b) for infectious cases other than at hospital: None. (c) for other cases: Nil. (d) for post-mortem examinations: One at Mytholmroyd and one at Hebden Bridge.

Any suggestions by M.O.H.?: No.

Sanitary Staff

What is the present annual salary of the M.O.H.?: £113 8s. 4d.

Name of Sanitary Inspector: T. Feather (now deceased).

Annual salary as Sanitary Inspector: £369 8s. 0d. (including war bonus).

Any additional or Assistant Sanitary Inspectors?: No.

Is staff sufficient?: No.

Does M.O.H. receive copies of memos. and circulars distributed by Ministry of Health?: Yes.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. L. KAY, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

